

Setting the Record Straight: Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action

Claim: “Nuclear experts oppose this deal.”

Reality: The vast majority of nuclear and defense experts endorse the deal, including:

- 70+ Non-Proliferation Experts Support Iran Agreement ([link](#))
- 29 Top U.S. Scientists Endorse the agreement ([link](#))
- 440 Rabbis recently signed a letter endorsing the agreement ([link](#))
- 60+ Israeli Ex-Security Officials urged Israeli P.M. to support the agreement ([link](#))
- 50+ Christian Leaders Announce Support ([link](#))
- 100+ Former Ambassadors strongly endorse the agreement ([link](#))

Claim: “We must go back to the table and demand a better deal.”

Reality: There are no viable diplomatic alternatives.

- **The rest of the P5+1 supports the JCPOA.** Foreign leaders of the P5+1 have made clear that they support the agreement and reopening negotiations is impossible. ([link](#))
- Rejection of the JCPOA means the successful multilateral sanctions regime will likely fall apart - providing Iran with significant economic benefits without any concessions agreed to under the JCPOA. ([link](#))
- 90+ countries around the world have endorsed the Iran nuclear agreement. ([link](#))

Claim: “Iran will gain too much from sanctions relief under the JCPOA.”

Reality: The multilateral nuclear sanctions regime was implemented to bring Iran to the table for the nuclear negotiations that produced the JCPOA. All non-nuclear sanctions against Iran will remain in place.

- **The JCPOA eases nuclear sanctions only** once Iran has demonstrated compliance. (JCPOA Annex V, Paragraph 14)
- The U.S. & E.U. will continue to maintain non-nuclear sanctions on Iran, including sanctions stemming from Iran’s human rights abuses and support for terrorism. ([link](#))
- The U.S. will retain about \$1.9b in frozen Iranian funds from non-nuclear sanctions - \$1.9b that won’t be released under JCPOA. (OFAC Terrorist Assessment Report)
- Rather than \$150b, Iran will receive about \$50b in sanctions relief. ([link](#))
- The U.S. controls none of the \$56b that will be released to Iran. (U.S. Treasury Dept.)
- These assets are largely held in China, India, Turkey, Japan and South Korea.

Claim: “Extending embargo on conventional & ballistic arms for only 5 & 8 years is a non-nuclear concession to Iran.”

Reality: The conventional arms embargo and ballistic missile embargo were implemented as part of the package of nuclear sanctions to bring Iran to the negotiating table.

- Some P5 partners wanted an *immediate* lifting of conventional and ballistic arms embargos. Extending these embargoes to 5 and 8 years is a significant victory. ([link](#))

Claim: “Iran can hide nuclear-related activities by delaying inspections 24 days.”

Reality: The JCPOA’s inspection and verification regime is the most aggressive and intrusive non-proliferation agreement ever negotiated.

- Known Iranian enrichment sites are subject to **secure 24/7 surveillance** by the IAEA.
- The 24 day waiting period is the **maximum period** it would take for IAEA inspectors to be granted access to a suspected but undeclared nuclear site - including the dispute resolution process. ([link](#))
- If Iran engages in enrichment activities, **radioactive residue will be detectable for many years**, and cannot be hidden once IAEA inspectors arrive on site. ([link](#))

Claim: “Iran is allowed to develop nuclear weapons in 25 years.”

Reality: The JCPOA explicitly prohibits Iran from **ever** developing a nuclear weapon and lays the groundwork for IAEA inspections in perpetuity.

- Iran has agreed to adopt the Additional Protocol, which has significant concessions regarding inspections and IAEA access lasting indefinitely. ([link](#))
- As a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Iran must continue to demonstrate that future nuclear development is strictly peaceful in nature, and this demonstration is made much easier with their numerous nuclear concessions. ([link](#))

Claim: “If Iran cheats under the agreement, it is unlikely the international community will respond appropriately.”

Reality: Multilateral cooperation under the JCPOA makes it much more likely that the international community will cooperate in holding Iran to its obligations.

- The JCPOA provides for “snapping back” of UN-imposed sanctions with no ability for Russia or China to veto the action. ([link](#))
- The United States can, itself, reimpose sanctions via the snapback provisions in the JCPOA – providing significant leverage to ensure Iranian compliance. ([link](#))

Claim: “Israel is united against the JCPOA.”

Reality: Many prominent Israelis have come out in support of the agreement.

- Over 60 Israeli Ex-Security, Intelligence, and Military Officials sent a letter to Prime Minister Netanyahu urging acceptance of the agreement. ([link](#))
- Key Israeli supporters of the JCPOA include **Ami Ayalon**, former head of the Shin Bet ([link](#)), **Efraim Halvey**, former director of the Mossad ([link](#)), Uzi Eilam, former director general of the Israeli Atomic Energy Commission ([link](#)), Shlomo Ben-Ami, former minister of Foreign Affairs and Internal Security under Prime Minister Barak ([link](#)), among others. ([link](#))

Claim: “Iran has the ability inspect its own facilities under the JCPOA”

Reality: Iran will not be inspecting its own nuclear facilities under the JCPOA.

- The IAEA has stated that the AP report claiming Iranian self inspection is a “misrepresentation.” ([link](#))

The IAEA chief has said that the agreement between the IAEA and Iran regarding investigation into possible military dimensions (PMDs) are “technically sound and consistent with ... long established practices." ([link](#))